

# FLOOD RECOVERY:

## GENERAL CLEANUP PROCEDURES FOR MOLD



### HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

Small mold problems—*typically totaling an area less than 10 square feet*—can be handled by the homeowner or apartment maintenance personnel using personal protective equipment. If the mold covers a larger area—*more than 100 square feet*—a professional mold treatment specialist may need to be brought in.

### WHAT CAN I SAVE? WHAT SHOULD I TOSS?

Discard moldy items that would be hard to clean. You may also need to discard carpet, gypsum board, ceiling tile, fabric, foam, cardboard, paper, particle board and composite board. Materials that can be kept once you have cleaned them include metal, glass, tile, laminate, and solid or sealed wood.

### INITIAL CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- First, open the windows and doors to allow for air circulation.
- Next remove excess water. A wet/dry vacuum cleaner may help remove water and clean the area. Drain flood water to the sanitary sewer. For information on how to find the cleanout, visit <http://sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/66584>.
- Discard flood damaged materials that can't be cleaned, for example, mold-damaged drywall or gypsum board, ceiling tiles, carpeting, drapes, upholstered furniture, and composite wood products. Mold can spread rapidly when moldy materials dry out, so remove moldy items as soon as possible.
- Remove drywall to a level above the high-water mark after flooding. Visually inspect the interior, and remove any mold-contaminated material, such as insulation.
- Place mold-contaminated items in sealed plastic bags and discard with household trash. However, do NOT place materials that include asbestos, lead or other toxic materials in household trash.

### SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND CLEANING

- You can clean non-porous materials, for example, glass, plastic, metal, and ceramic tiles.
- Wear long rubber gloves that go at least half-way to your elbows like kitchen gloves, an N-95 respirator (available at hardware stores), and unvented goggles. Wear a long sleeve shirt and long pants that you won't mind throwing away. Also wear sturdy shoes with closed toes. There may be carpet tacks or nails on the floor.
- Use a non-ammonia soap or detergent, or a commercial cleaner, in hot water, and scrub the entire mold-affected surface.
- Use a stiff brush or cleaning pad on cement-block walls and other uneven surfaces.
- Rinse cleaned items with water and allow to air dry. Use a product designed to kill mold, like Moldex Mold Killer, MoldSTAT Plus, or similar, available at your local hardware store. Stain remover will not kill mold. Be sure to read the label carefully and follow the instructions. If you are using a concentrate, be sure to mix the proportions as directed. Make sure you are wearing the protective equipment listed above – gloves, goggles and respirator – **before** mixing the mold product. PRECAUTIONS: Don't let the product touch your bare skin or splash into your eyes. Don't touch your face with your gloves. If it gets in your eyes: Rinse with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses if easy to do and continue rinsing. If irritation persists, seek medical attention. If it gets on your skin: Wash with plenty of soap and water. If irritation persists, seek medical attention.
  - Prepare a garbage bag by labeling it with the name of the mold product using a marker or label
  - Wet a paper towel with the mold product – do not spray
  - Wipe down a non-porous surface, leaving it wet
  - Leave the product on as per the directions, up to 10 minutes
  - Per the directions, wipe dry with a clean paper towel or let air dry
  - Put the used paper towels in the labeled garbage bag
  - Throw your clothes away in the labeled garbage bag
  - Rinse off your shoes with water

- Dispose of the labeled garbage bag as Household Hazardous Waste
- Wash your hands with soap and water

## WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

The California Department of Public Health has information on mold and safe ways to remove it from homes and apartments here: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/IAQ/Pages/IndoorMold.aspx>

## HIRING A CONTRACTOR TO REMOVE MOLD

If a contractor is needed to remove mold from your residence:

- Make sure to hire a licensed contractor or other professional with experience and specific training in mold remediation or “mold abatement”.
- Here are some resources to find a mold expert:
  - Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration (IICRC) at [www.iicrc.org/locate-a-certified-professional/#north-america](http://www.iicrc.org/locate-a-certified-professional/#north-america) and search for “mold remediation” services in your area.
  - The Indoor Air Quality Association (IAQA) at [www.iaqa.org/consumer-info](http://www.iaqa.org/consumer-info) or 844-802-4103.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING A CONTRACTOR:

- ✓ About their specific training, experience, and the exact work they will do to solve your mold problem
- ✓ Do they have a license or certification for mold remediation
- ✓ Do they have insurance, and ask for references

## DEBRIS BINS

Company	Phone Number
\$99 Debris Box Service	408-283-4804
7 Days Box	408-646-7067
Accurate Cleaning Solutions	831-636-9767
All Points Roll Off, Inc	408-238-4187
American Debris Box Service, Inc.	866-332-7471
Bay Area Dumpsters	408-887-5022
Chip It Recycling	650-458-6356
Citywide Fibers	415-822-3688
Del Toro Trucking	408-968-7935
Eco Box Recycling, Inc	408-639-1373
Ferma Corporation	877-337-6211
GreenTeam Of San Jose	408-283-8500
Greenwaste Recovery, Inc	408-283-4800
Guadalupe Recycling Disposal	408-268-1670
Gw Debris Service	408-283-4804
Haul-Away Today	408-279-6939
M&G Hauling Inc	408-982-3633
Pacific Coast Recycling	408-848-6811
Peninsula Debris Box Service	650-212-2225
Premiere Recycle	408-297-7910
Recology Silicon Valley	408-392-3000
Republic Services, Inc	408-432-1234
Rws	408-292-0830
Ta Trucking	408-833-2128
Toca Debris Box	415-672-0370
Valley Recycling	408-297-5352

The companies listed in the table on the left are licensed by the City of San José to provide construction and demolition debris bins and boxes from various sizes ranging from 10 – 40 cubic yards. **Property owners or contractors are responsible for costs associated with debris bin services.**

More information is available at  
County of Santa Clara Department of  
Environmental Health website  
<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/cpd/programs/mold/Pages/home.aspx>

Stay Informed:  
[www.sanjoseca.gov/StormUpdate](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/StormUpdate)